

Message Text

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65

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2966

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

UNCLAS LISBON 3089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, AZ

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE MEDIA TREATMENT ON AZORES SITUATION

1. LENGTHY ARTICLE ENTITLED "REACTIONARY AND IMPERIALIST ESCALATION IN AZORES" BY RUI MACHADO APPEARED MAY 31 "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" (D/N). STORY OCCUPIED MOST OF OP/ED PAGE AND OUTLINED SUPPOSEDLY ACCELERATED DETERIORATION OF POLITICAL SITUATION THROUGHOUT AZORES SINCE APRIL 25 ELECTIONS. D/N EXTENSIVELY CRITICIZED PRO-AUTONOMIST MAPA (MOVIMENTO DE AUTODETERMINACAO PARA OS ACORES) AND PRO-INDEPENDENCE AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT (FRENTE DE LIBERTACAO DOS ACORES-FLA) AND ADDED THAT US CONSULATE EMPLOYEES ARE CERTAINLY MAPA MEMBERS. D/N INCLUDED PHOTOS OF PRO-INDEPENDENCE GRAFITTI AND NOTED EXISTENCE OF SEVERAL OTHER AZOREAN MOVEMENTS FAVORING INDEPENDENCE. ARTICLE ALLEGED PPD AND CDS COMPLICITY IN GROWING SEPARATIST SENTIMENT AND CHARGED THAT DR. JOSE ALMEIDA HAS BEEN CONDUCTING REACTIONARY ACTIVITY AMONG PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE US INCLUDING "AGGRESSIVE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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INSULTING ACTIONS" TAKEN AGAINST VISITING GOP MINISTER JESUINO.

2. JUNE 2 "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" AND "O SECULO" CARRIED IDENTICAL
STORIES ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN AZORES. "O SECULO" COPY
HEADED: "IMPERIALISM AND ITS ANALYSIS." "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS"
LEAD BANNER WAS: "ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN REVIEW: PORTUGAL
FEARS AZOREAN BREAKAWAY SHOULD METROPOLE STEER TOO FAR LEFT."
JOINT AP/ANI ARTICLES DATELINED NEW YORK CONSISTED OF
STRAIGHTFORWARD SUMMARY AND QUOTATIONS FROM AZORES STORY IN NY
WEEKLY "BARONS." SUMMARY POINTED TO GOP FEAR THAT ISLANDS,
STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT TO US, COULD BREAK AWAY FROM PORTUGAL.
SUMMARY ALSO NOTED WEAK COMMUNIST SHOWING IN APRIL 25 ELECTION
AND PROBABLE PREFERENCE ON PART OF LUSO-AMERICANS FOR AZOREAN
INDEPENDENCE RATHER THAN COURTSHIP WITH COMMUNISM.
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